## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: Yukihiro Saida

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Appln. No.: 10/645,400 § Examiner: Hilina S. Kassa

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Filing Date: August 21, 2003 § Attorney Docket No.: 9976-19US

(OB0045US)

Title: IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1) AND §1.97(e)(1)

Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO/SB/08A in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1) and (a)(2) listing all patents, publications, applications, and/or other information being submitted for consideration which may be material to the patentability of this application and/or for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of the U.S. patent cited herein is not enclosed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). However, a copy can be provided upon request.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that any of the listed documents constitutes prior art, nor as an admission against interest in any manner.

The cited reference, U.S. Patent, No. 7,173,723 B1, relates to the Japanese Application No. JP2001-018492 cited by the Examiner in the Office Action of July 5, 2007.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1017.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be considered and acknowledged by the Examiner in

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connection with the above-identified patent application, be made of record therein, and that the listed documents be cited in the issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,

YUKIHIRO SAIDA

January 7, 2008 (Date)

CLARK A. JABLON Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 35,039

PANITCH SCHWARZE BELISARO

& NADEL LLP

One Commerce Square 2005 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7013 Telephone: 215-965-1330 **Direct Dial: 215-965-1293** Facsimile: 215-965-1331

E-Mail: cjablon@panitchlaw.com

**Enclosures**